IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute original claim number 28 with the currently amended claim having the same claim number.

1. (withdrawn) A method of delivering antigen to dendritic cells comprising:
contacting dendritic cells with apoptotic cells expressing an antigen wherein said contact is for a time sufficient to allow said antigen to be internalized by the dendritic cells, and wherein said apoptotic cells have been induced in vitro to become apoptotic.

2. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dendritic cells are human.

3. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the apoptotic cells are selected from the group consisting of cells of a cell line, cells which have been transformed to express a foreign antigen, tumor cell line, xenogeneic cells, or tumor cells.

4. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 3 wherein the apoptotic cells are selected from the group consisting of monocytes, 293 cells, L cells, Hela cells, B cells and EL4 cells.

5. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of inducing apoptosis of cells expressing said antigen to produce the apoptotic cells.

6. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by infection with influenza virus.

7. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by irradiation with ultraviolet light, gamma radiation, steroids, serum deprivation, cytokines, or drugs.

8. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 5 wherein apoptosis is induced by depriving antigen donor cells of nutrients in the cell culture medium.

9. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein dendritic cells are exposed to a preparation of apoptotic cell fragments, blebs, or bodies containing antigen.

10. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein said antigen is selected from a group consisting of tumor antigens, viral antigens, pathogens, microbial antigens, self antigens, and autoimmune antigens.

11. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of influenza virus, malaria, HIV, EBV, human papilloma virus, CMV, renal cell carcinoma antigens, melanoma antigens, breast cancer antigens, cancer antigens and myeloma antigens.

12. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.

13. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein said dendritic cells are immature and phagocytic.

14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the cells to be induced to undergo apoptosis are first transformed with DNA encoding said antigen.

15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of apoptotic cells to dendritic cells is about 1-10 apoptotic cells to about 100 dendritic cells.

16. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dendritic cells are contacted with the apoptotic cells in vivo.

17. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the dendritic cells are contacted with the apoptotic cells in vitro.

18. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 further comprising a maturation step following internalization of said apoptotic cells by said dendritic cells wherein said dendritic cells are exposed to a maturation factor for a sufficient time to induce maturation of said dendritic cells.

19. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the maturation step comprises contacting the immature dendritic cells with at least one maturation factor selected from the

group consisting of monocyte conditioned medium, TNFα, IL-1β, IL-6, PGE_2, IFNα, CD40 ligand, and necrotic cells.

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein the maturation factor is selected from the group consisting of monocyte conditioned medium; IFNα and at least one other factor selected from the group consisting of IL-1β, IL-6 and TNFα; and necrotic cells.

21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 wherein the maturation factor is necrotic cells.

22. (withdrawn) A method of generating antigen-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes comprising:

providing a population of apoptotic cells expressing said antigen;

contacting dendritic cells with said apoptotic cells for a time sufficient to allow said antigen to be internalized and processed by said dendritic cells; and

contacting T lymphocyte precursors with said dendritic cells for a sufficient time to induce the T lymphocyte precursors to become activated antigen-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes.

23. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 22 wherein said dendritic cells are exposed to a preparation of apoptotic cell fragments containing antigen.

24. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 22 further comprising administering said antigen-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes to an individual afflicted with a disease.

25. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 22 further comprising administering said apoptotic-cell primed dendritic cells to an individual afflicted with a disease for the purpose of activating antigen-specific T lymphocytes, including helper and cytotoxic T cells, in vivo.

26. (withdrawn) An antigen presenting dendritic cell prepared according to the method of claim 1.

27. (withdrawn) Cytotoxic T lymphocytes prepared according to the method of claim 22.

28. (currently amended) A method of assessing cytotoxic T lymphocyte activity comprising:

a) providing an antigen presenting dendritic cells prepared by contacting the dendritic cells with an apoptotic cells expressing an antigen or an apoptotic cell fragments, blebs, or bodies body containing an antigen, wherein the apoptotic cell may be shown to be apoptotic by measuring a marker by Annexin V staining, propidium iodide staining, DNA laddering, or staining with dUTP and terminal transferase (TUNEL), wherein said contact is for a time sufficient to allow said antigen to be internalized by the dendritic cells, and wherein said apoptotic cells have has been induced in vitro to become apoptotic;

b) exposing the antigen presenting dendritic cells of step a) to a population of T lymphocytes to be assayed for their ability to exhibit killer cell activity; and

c) assaying the cytotoxic activity of the T lymphocytes exposed to said antigen presenting dendritic cells.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the antigen presented by the dendritic cell is a tumor antigen and the T lymphocytes are assayed for their cytotoxic activity against tumor cells.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the antigen presented by the dendritic cell is a viral antigen and the T lymphocytes are assayed for their cytotoxic activity against viral infected cells.

31. (withdrawn) A method of delivering antigen to dendritic cells comprising:
contacting dendritic cells with a material selected from the group consisting of a reconstituted apoptotic cell system, apoptotic cell fragments, and liposomes comprising at least one antigen and a material which enhances internalization and translocation of antigen to an antigen processing compartment of said dendritic cells.

32. (withdrawn) The nethod according to claim 31 wherein the material for enhancing internalization is a ligand for the $\alpha_v\beta_5$ integrin receptor.

33. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 32 wherein the ligand for the $\alpha_v\beta_5$ integrin receptor is lactadherin.

34. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 32 wherein the material for enhancing internalization is thrombospondin.

35. (withdrawn) An in vitro culture comprising immature dendritic cells in contact with an antigen donor selected from the group consisting of apoptotic cells, a reconstituted apoptotic cell system, apoptotic cell fragments, and liposomes comprising at least one antigen and a material which enhances internalization and translocation of antigen to an antigen processing compartment of said dendritic cells.

36. (withdrawn) The in vitro culture according to claim 35 wherein the dendritic cells are in contact with apoptotic cells.

37. (withdrawn) An in vitro culture of immature dendritic cells wherein said dendritic cells further comprise antigen obtained from apoptotic cells.

38. (withdrawn) An in vitro culture of mature dendritic cells prepared according to the method of any one of claims 19-22.

39. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising dendritic cells which present antigen internalized from an apoptotic donor cell and wherein said pharmaceutical compositions further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39 wherein the dendritic cells are immature.

41. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39 wherein the dendritic cells are mature.

42. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41 wherein the internalized antigen is a tumor antigen.

43. (withdrawn) A method of immunizing an individual against an antigen comprising administering to an individual an amount of dendritic cells sufficient to activate T cells, wherein said dendritic cells have been contacted with antigen present on a donor selected from the group consisting of apoptotic cells, a reconstituted apoptotic cell system, apoptotic cell fragments, and liposomes comprising a material which enhances internalization and translocation of antigen to an antigen processing compartment of said dendritic cells.

44. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 43 wherein the dendritic cells administered to an individual are immature.

45. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 43 wherein the dendritic cells are contacted with a maturation factor and caused to mature prior to their administration to the individual.

46. (withdrawn) A method of activating CD4+ T cells comprising contacting a population of T lymphocytes with dendritic cells which have been contacted with antigen present on necrotic cells and wherein the dendritic cells express antigen on MHC class II receptors.

47. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 46 wherein the tumor is a tumor antigen.

48. (withdrawn) A method of activating CD4+ and CD8+ T cells against tumor cells comprising a tumor antigen , said method comprising contacting immature dendritic cells with apoptotic and necrotic cells which express said tumor antigen for a period of time sufficient for said dendritic cells to process said tumor antigen and present the tumor antigen on class I and II MHC receptors and for said dendritic cells to mature, and further contacting said antigen presenting dendritic cells with a population of T lymphocytes to cause activation of CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the apoptosis is induced by irradiation with ultraviolet light, gamma irradiation, steroids, serum deprivation, cytokines, or drugs which induce apoptosis.

50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said apoptosis is induced in vitro by depriving cells comprising said antigen of nutrients in the cell culture medium.

51. (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said antigen is produced recombinantly.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said apoptotic cells comprise said recombinantly produced antigen prior to becoming apoptotic.

57. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said apoptosis is induced by infection with a virus.

58. (withdrawn) The method of claim 57, wherein said virus is influenza virus.

59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said dendritic cells are immature dendritic cells.

60. (withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein said immature dendritic cells are characterized as being surface CD83 negative and DC-LAMP negative.

61. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, said method further comprising a maturation step following internalization of said apoptotic cells by said dendritic cells wherein said dendritic cells are exposed to a maturation factor for a sufficient time to induce maturation of said dendritic cells.